

understaffed and they are under horrible political pressure to issue permits." She also noted that there was only one person in the state dealing with CAFO permits and no staff to monitor permitted facilities.

The petitioners were asking only that laws already on the books be enforced. Midwest Environmental Advocates attorney Sarah Williams stated that "the petitioners are not trying to get rid of CAFOs, they're not trying to stop this industrial dairy from expanding, what they want is a permit that protects their water and health."

During the February case hearing, public testimony noted that 50 percent of the private wells tested in Lincoln township, and 30 percent of the private wells tested in Kewaunee County, were contaminated with E. coli and other contaminants. Residents cannot use water from their wells for drinking, cooking or bathing.

In his Oct. 29 decision, Judge Jefferey Boldt ordered Kinnard Farms to begin groundwater monitoring for pollutants at the building site. He ordered no less than six monitoring wells, two of which must monitor off-site land-spreading of manure. It was also ordered that a maximum number of animal units at the facility be noted on the permit.

The DNR was ordered to modify the Kinnard Farms permit to limit discharge of manure or wastewater pollutants to navigable waters.

If, as spokesman Lee Kinnard stated, Kinnard Farms is "very committed to being responsible stewards of those resources" and "passionate about being responsible farmers," why didn't they put the petitioners' requests in place two years ago?

Why didn't the DNR undertake a more thorough permitting process initially? Government agencies should not have to be forced by citizens to enforce the law.

In a state where "moving forward" means getting bigger, the environment and public health always seem to trumped by someone needing to increase their profits. We are told that economic survival depends on growth, no matter what business you are in. Personally, I don't agree.

There is something seriously wrong with society if profit for a few is put ahead of public health.

And when the government refuses to enforce laws protecting the public, then there is something seriously wrong with the government.

*Jim Goodman is a dairy farmer from Wonewoc.*

Copyright 2014 madison.com. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

**Tags** Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation, Kewaunee County Wisconsin, Jim Goodman, Department Of Natural Resources, Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

### More Column Stories

Danielle Douglas-Gabriel: Why a college degree shouldn't be a commodity	Eric Genrich: Look back to move progressive politics forward	Leezia Dhalla: Obama's new policy doesn't do enough to protect families like mine	Katrina vanden Heuvel: The moral and political case for reforming the criminal justice system
---	--	---	---

[x]